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The Rowan Tree Church 24th Annual Report, Hallows 2005 ce-Hallows 2006 ce.

Rowan Tree Church

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The Rowan Tree Church

24th Annual Report

Hallows 2005 ce - Hallows 2006 ce



Let us form a collective Tree of Wisdom.
Extend your Lothlorien roots deep into the Earth.
Inhale and draw up water and minerals.
Feel the Earth around your toes and roots.
And then, through learning our Tradition,
reach up toward the heavens with your branches
and grow your leaves and fruit.



This illustration of Andrius was drawn by the late Dirk Dykstra in [ca] 1979. It was Dirk who first suggested the name 'The Rowan Tree.'

Growing a Tree

The perennial question has returned again. Perhaps that's why it's a 'perennial' and not an 'annual?' The topic addresses the long-term future of The Rowan Tree Church. This discussion has been brought, once again, to The Mystery School. It will also be a major topic for discussion at this coming year's Annual Retreat. The Members of our Church as well as its friends and supporters are asked to attend, to walk the paths in the gardens, to join us in the ritual experiences at this Retreat and to extend to the Board their wishes and desires, their hopes and dreams, and their commitment to participate in this work.

Many of our Members believe that, because they so love The Rowan Tree Church, it should attract a significant growth in Members. And yet, in a discussion recently held within The Mystery School, I brought the same topic to the New Moon. One response surprised me: it was from a Novice who commented that the current (small) size of The Rowan Tree Church is really quite wonderful. This led to an on-the-spot

evaluation of what is needed in order for the Church to exist as a small organization with a very small volunteer pool. Currently there are two individuals who provide focus and encouragement, more than 90% of all labor and are the cohesive glue. I am, as you may have already guessed, speaking of myself and gerry.

For some years, now, one of my concerns has been ensuring that there will be at least one Initiate fully-trained and able to oversee The Mystery School and The Tradition of Lothlorien in the role of Eldermentor as a Third Degree Initiate. Today we have no one who is a Third Degree Initiate.

Some of you would question this, given that The Tradition of Lothlorien's roots extend back nearly 30 years. There are several factors. Lothlorien is, like all Wiccan Traditions, new. Wicca refers to itself as the 'Old Religion,' but I urge you to read the book *The Triumph of The Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft* by Ronald Hutton. And yes, there are copies in our library. The Tradition of Lothlorien did not emerge out of nothing, thirty years ago. The first ten or more years saw the evolution of our Tradition as it grew and came into its own being.

A second reason is that our Pathworking is very challenging. I have long maintained that the survival of our religion means that our clergy ought to be as well-trained as those of any mainstream religion. Given that those studying in The Mystery School have relationships, mortgages, children, vehicles and numerous responsibilities does not allow them to devote as much time to their Pathworking as we see in those who are supported while they live in a Buddhist monastery or attend a Christian University to obtain a degree in theology and/or credentials as a clergyperson.

We do have four individuals who are First Degree Initiates. Two of them are within reach of their Second Degree Initiation and two of them have been seriously side-tracked due to reasons of health. One, our beloved Ravenhawke, will remain within our ranks but her ability to maintain even active status within The Mystery School is no longer a reality. Ortolano is, at times, able to make progress, but that is very slow, also due to a long-term health condition. You know of the other two: gerry Beyerl and Jim Saigle have both worked their Yoking Rituals. With Jim living in Ontario, his ability to take on the responsibilities of The Rowan Tree Church as Eldermentor is not feasible nor ought it be expected of him. And gerry? Living with the Eldermentor and the role he currently fulfills is more than enough. What is needed will be someone younger, better able to reach into Lothlorien's future years.

Since its inception The Mystery School has been a program of education which has been open to nearly anyone who wanted to see if it was a viable path. I have, at times, shared with Mystery School students and with Members of the Church that some day in the future it would become likely that this approach would change.

Beginning this year, admission to The Mystery School is going to become more challenging. Those who wish to enter The Mystery School must have completed their 'time,' meaning the amount of time we ask of them as *active*, supporting Members. Candidates would be people who have rearranged the

priorities in their lives to allow them to put forth at least a couple of hours every week, also gaining knowledge of the Board of Directors, giving back to the Church through the Galadhrim and completing their preparation for Lay Ministry. When there is an opening for a new Novice Supplicant, the person most able to take advantage of this opportunity will be asked. This will ensure that this person can make the best progress toward becoming someone able to share in the teaching of Lothlorien's future.

It is now necessary that I be more selective with my time, with my own knowledge as a non-renewable resource. If I can do my part, it would be to work with those who are the *future* of our Church. This will mean that I have less time to meet all of the requests which now cross my desk: people wanting someone to write to them; offenders in the Prisoner Outreach Program needing additional communication; worrying about students who do not have their lives together. If I do my work well, and if you - collectively - do yours, our Rowan Tree will bear fruit.

Join with me next summer, would you please? Let us work together to grow our tree.

Be most blessed, Rev. Paul

Founder, Eldermantor

The General Manager

There has been little news and little change this past year. There are times that I must alert the Board President that there's not enough money. You know, it's like talking to myself! (And here you can visualize one of those smiley face icons!) We've had some expenses increase and I have done what I could to keep our overall overhead down.

My work includes continuing to keep the bookkeeping current on a near-daily basis, bank deposits, keeping all receipts and information which is then sent to the Treasurer. One of the personal ethics I bring to this work is maintaining accuracy. Our books are balanced to the penny. The checking account and Land Fund CDs are always accurate and I can account for literally every penny of Church funds.

One concern: the financial information reaching Members is not, in my view, as thorough as might be ideal. Rather than the occasional communication to members of financial panic, I would like to think that regular reporting would encourage our Members to keep their Rowan Tree alive and well. Perhaps the annual report is adequate? I know that many do not wish to be bothered with financial data and other 'trivia' but we must deal with reality. The study of Magick and principles of The Tradition of Lothlorien teach us that "as above, so below" is the way Magick works.

Most recently we restocked t-shirt sizes. Ensuring that we have spiral-bound copies, t-shirts and books with which to fill catalog orders seems to also be part of the General Manager's work.

One goal for all of you might be to come up with a new General Manager within the next couple of years. It is very important that someone be able to step into this position having had full training and the ability to get all questions answered - and that could require a couple year of experience to work through all of the possible legal and financial and real property issues which fall under the responsibilities of this position.

Bless you all and bless the hopeful 'whomever' who may come along.

Rev. Paul

It's time for the annual overview of an organization whose Members are dependent upon paper and stamps!

Total Postage and Shipping = \$1,427.63

Rowan Tree General Budget	\$409.11
postal box rent	130.00
<i>The Rowan Tree News</i>	290.99
promotional, informational and business	129.05
subtotal	\$959.15
last year	797.01
The Mystery School	\$295.46
Subscription Library	158.44
Periodical Library	66.35
cassette tape mailing	12.50
<i>The Unicorn</i>	164.18
annual retreat	5.90
mailing cassette tapes	14.86
total of all	\$1,664.34
last year	\$1,427.63
change	+ \$236.71

Total Printing = \$1,089.36

<i>The Rowan Tree News</i>	\$420.76
catalogs, flyers, etc.	33.95
last year's Annual Report	32.64
<i>The Unicorn</i>	201.38
Periodical Library	71.92
laser printer toner	16.35
The Mystery School	227.44
Subscription Library	79.84
total	\$1,084.28
last year	1,089.36
change	- \$5.08

Financial Statements 2005-2006

The following figures represent the budget total (the amount in the checking account for each of these divisions) at the beginning of the fiscal year; at the end of the fiscal year on October 31, 2006 ce; and the change:

operating budgets			
RT General Budget	93.96	114.18	+ \$ 20.22
The Mystery School	243.08	279.03	+ 35.95
Subscription Library	76.31	324.05	+ 247.74
Periodical Library	57.41	85.49	+28.08
<i>The Unicorn</i>	146.94	55.26	- 91.68
Annual Retreat	239.41	517.04	+ 277.63
computer expenses	17.00	24.43	+ 7.43
tape duplicating services	110.39	146.32	+ 35.93
subtotals	984.50	1545.80	+ 561.30

In addition we have money in our checking account which is part of a 'fund,' not available for general expenses.

sales tax money for State	28.56	38.52	+ 9.96
food drive	15.00	.00	- 15.00
t-shirt replacement	199.20	69.20	- 130.00
Retreat Scholarship fund	939.72	402.48	- 537.24
Members' cabin savings	1350.00	1074.13	- 275.87
Land Fund	673.86	869.13	+ 195.27
Memorial Fund	.00	130.00	+ 130.00

contingency fund	.00	1000.00	+ 1000.00
property tax fund	495.00	803.32	+ 308.32
royalties due to be paid	6.00	4.00	- 2.00
liability insurance fund	835.00	1034.89	+ 199.89
subtotals	4542.34	5425.67	+ 883.33
net balance	5,526.84	6,971.47	+1444.63

Your Help

Member Donations for the year:	\$3,290.45
Member donations last year:	2,897.40
change	+ 393.05

The previous two years we'd shown a decrease of nearly one thousand dollars. Our ability to recover 40% of that loss is a huge accomplishment. This, combined with some serious decreases in what we usually spend to cover our expenses, has helped us considerably this year.

Dedicated Donations: \$2,069.85

These figures represent money donated by members *in addition* to their regular donations with their monthly forms. These monies have been designated for specific uses and cannot be diverted by the General Manager for paying other bills.

computer expenses	182.28
Memorial Fund (from Jim and Heather)	100.00
<i>The Unicorn</i>	5.00
contingency fund (from Charly McCreary)	1,000.00
land fund	5.12
property tax	122.45
liability insurance	655.00
total	\$2,069.85
last year	2,138.70
change	- \$68.85

Communication from your Board of Directors

President, Board of Directors

Much of this past year was spent working on developing the guidelines for a Children's Program. At this time, however, the head of this program has somewhat dropped off the radar leaving us uncertain about its future as a function of The Rowan Tree Church. This was, however, good work to have accomplished.

We approved Wendy Barrington as someone able to access all legal and financial materials held at Washington Mutual Bank.

Other work? We've added two observers, Keith and Heather, both of whom have been astounding fund-raisers with their respective projects.

We've had excellent election returns with a goodly percentage of Members voting.

The Rowan Tree Church was represented at a Puget Sound area Pagan Pride event. It was excellent.

The annual meeting of the Board at Yellowstone focused on some fund-raising ideas as well as a discussion about the relocation of the Periodical Archives.

But now, as we move into the new fiscal year (the administrative year begins with installation of the Board of Directors during the Ritual for Fall, held near the Equinox), we find that we are in need of one of more of you. Church bylaws (the Book of Legislation) require us to have a minimum number of Voting Directors, and with Coral having dropped out off the Board's roster, we are short-staffed.

If you wish to be part of the working group that keeps things together, contact me!

Rev. Paul

Vice President, Board of Directors

[No report available]

Wendy Barrington

Treasurer

This has been another busy year for the Rowan Tree Board of Directors. We developed guidelines for the Children's Program, and continue to address issues involving the administrative aspects of the Rowan Tree. In addition to my participation in the Board of Directors, I have again served in the capacity of Treasurer for the Church. Financial issues remain an issue, especially for paying for liability insurance. This year we also learned that the property taxes on the land which the Church owns will be raised substantially. The Beyerls continue to support the Rowan Tree most generously with the contribution of the funds for property tax, but the Church needs to become more self sufficient. I believe that one aspect of the Church being a more mature organization (we've been around a long time now!) will be becoming more fiscally independent. This requires a commitment from all members. I encourage everyone to support the Church in whatever way you are able. We are given so much that it is a gift to pass some of it along.

On a personal level, I have not had as much time as I would like to spend on Church issues this year, primarily because I am in the process of moving to the Seattle area. I have great hopes for the year ahead and look forward to being able to be more involved in person. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the Rowan Tree this year, and I have faith that the coming year will be a great one for the Rowan Tree Church.

Blessed be, Donna

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Greetings to each Member of the Rowan Tree family!

During the past year, i have had the privilege to serve as Secretary to The Rowan Tree's Board of Directors. i have been honored to hold this position for the past nine years. i thank each of you for assisting me in fulfilling my duties. Your monthly forms, donations, cards, and letters are very important to me. i hope that my responses are as meaningful to each of you. i do my best to make each response personal, but i know sometimes they may come across as just a form note. Trust me, each one is directed to each of you as an individual. That is why they take time and sometimes are later than i wish them to be.

The information you share about yourselves is one of the most important parts of the RTNews. Because we are such a spread-out Church, these letters are one of the best ways for each Member to know more about the others. Please continue to share your lives, goals, victories, defeats, questions and miscellaneous news with us.

Once again, each of you has had the opportunity to vote for the Board of Directors for the coming year. More than 50% of you did fill out your ballot and return it. i am gratified by this response.

For the past year, my goal was to have a response time to your correspondence of one week maximum. During the Winter, the wet part of the past twelve months, this has been the rule rather than the exception, and it has given me a better feeling about my responses to your writings and donations. i hope you feel more valued as a Member by this. The exceptions have been since the growing season started and the garden working of the summer became very intense. i am hoping to schedule an hour a day (average) to deal with Church business at my desk, even in

the Summer. This will allow me to keep abreast of your letters and news. i will again aim for a same month response this year and hope you will bear with me as i work into the cooler Autumn months and catch up at this point.

Starting in January, 2004, i began doing some "bookkeeping" to encourage you to save for this year's Yellowstone Retreat! Beginning again in January of 2007, i will start anew, trying to encourage you to save toward this goal. i hope that several more of you will be able to put money aside so that you will be able to join us at this magnificent natural wonderland to honor the Lord and Lady in 2009. Yes, that does seem distant in some ways, but as you and i know, time moves much more quickly than we expect. We have to plan ahead for the good times!

In the Secretary section in the RTNews, i continue to post the number of monthly forms received each month compared to the number of Member households. Also, i am enjoying the celebration of Membership anniversaries each month. And i hope you are enjoying knowing how many of us are located in different parts of the continent, from my "Where are we?" notes in the RTNews.

i continue to send out the two- and three-month reminders to Members who have not submitted Membership forms or responded during a past two or three month period. Current Membership lists are kept in the archives. These lists are used for CHurch business only and are not shared with any other organization.

If you have any questions about your Membership status, or about my duties as Secretary, please send me a note. And please keep those monthly forms and letters arriving at the Grove!

Blessings, gerry Beyerl

Scribe, 2005-2006

[No report available]

Dharma Black

Board Observer

I have only been a BOD Observer for a short time now but have been a part of the Rowan Tree family for some time. I have successfully made contributions to the Galadhrim by means of beaded earrings, feathers and ritual necklaces. During my next year as a Board Observer I plan on responding to the Agendas and helping when I can. I continue to learn more of the policies and hope to better help and strengthen my bonds with the Rowan Tree family.

New Year Blessings to all,

Keith Ruch

Board Advisor

As a Board Advisor I have been more active this year in lending my voice and was able to attend the Annual Retreat at Yellowstone where ideas flowed and sprouted and even erupted like the many geysers that surrounded us. I will continue to serve as we move into a new year and work with the Board. My focus this year will be on helping to solve the growing financial crisis facing the Church and I am planning to be at the next Annual Retreat and Annual Board Meeting in Kirkland.

Lizard Frank Cordeiro

The Unicorn



The Unicorn: Editor

Beginning it's 30th year with the Hallows issue, at this point I have been editing *The Unicorn* for half of my life. It is quite remarkable to be at the onset of the thirtieth year of editing, publishing (and writing for) *The Unicorn*.

The Hatchling began appearing with its first episode in the Candlemas, 1995 issue of *The Unicorn*. This coming Candlemas, 2007, I anticipate the final episode which brings the story of Arnica, Holly, Dark Star and their coven and school full circle. It is hoped that the entire series will be published in book form within the year.

We had had the artwork of Michael Brandon, a participant in the POP, for nearly two years, which has been a great blessing. Michael has resigned his position as staff artist. Through the confidence he gained he is now heading a growing Wiccan group at his facility in California, a great undertaking, which is taking all of his spare time.

Subscription levels have returned to their previous levels, relative stable over the past five years although we have a high number of renewals coming up which inevitably gives the editor some concern. In the first decade of *The Unicorn*, we exchanged publications and advertising with as many as thirty other neopagan and Wiccan newsletters and magazines. The times have changed. These days it's difficult to find even a few others.

With our paid subscription level modest at best, the questions will often come up: should *The Unicorn* continue? I believe the historical value of *The Unicorn* alone is part of its value. Its presence was a major contributing factor to the original growth and reputation of The Rowan Tree Church. It was this newsletter that led to the arrival of unicorns in The Tradition of Lothloriën. It remains *The Unicorn* in which Mystery School find themselves first published and for which Members may submit work as well. We also find that participants in the POP highly value *The Unicorn*.

I do not know how realistic it is for me to desire, strongly, that *The Unicorn* will have a long future, but I do foster that hope.

Despite three decades as editor, I remain faithfully yours,

Rev. Paul

beginning of year	\$ 146.94
dedicated donations	5.00
RT Member subscriptions	62.00
nonMember subscriptions	251.00
sample packets	8.00
<i>The Hatchling</i>	14.00
fund-raising book sales	21.00
sample copies	2.00
prisoner donations	16.84
total income	\$ 526.78

postage	\$ 164.18
printing	201.38
general office expense	24.78
ritual items	45.33
electrical utility	3.85
recycling pickup	4.00
Public Storage	2.00
total expenses	471.52
balance	\$ 55.26

The Rowan Tree News

The Rowan Tree News

What is there to say? A third of each issue is made up of the material prepared by your loving and faithful Secretary who gives it to me on a disk.

My work is to write an opening letter, maintain the ritual schedule, and edit excerpts from the Prisoner Outreach Program participants. In addition to this I do the layout and editorial work. The actual editing - the layout work, etc. - is very simple,

given my experience and computer. It takes me perhaps 15 minutes.

Additional responsibilities include taking it to the printer, folding it, making labels and preparing the envelopes, plus stuffing and mailing the issue. gerry is often a great help with folding and stuffing the newsletter into the envelopes. This part of the newsletter could well be done by a volunteer although the timing has been the challenge when we've had offers.

The basic role of editor was, for most years, done by a series of volunteers. Some were more helpful than others, a couple simply wanted the title and recognition without being at all part of Lothloriën or of The Rowan Tree Church's Community. At those times we ended up with difficulties. Given that most of the material comes out of this office, it's actually been far less work for me to be the editor and work with gerry to keep this basic Church newsletter coming out on time every month. It's good work to do!

Editorially, Rev. Paul



The Mystery School

The Mystery School

In the immediate news, we celebrate the Novice known as 'Liquid Karma.' He was a new Novice Supplicant, but completed the work leading to Dedication and is now a Novice of Lothloriën. We also celebrated the return of Spell Drake a Novice working on The Second Ordeal, who has been on a Leave of Absence. And, in the first weeks of our new year, we are welcome two more new Novice Supplicants and the return of another Novice.

The issue which has kept me thoughtful this past year is this reality: At present the typical course of progress for a student is one in which her/his life has many priorities, but working on Pathworking must, of necessity, come only when employment, household, partnership, health, family and many other issues have been tended, unlike someone who has made a commitment to pursue formal college work, e.g. a divinity degree. With most students unable to set aside even a few hours a month the average amount of time between entering The Mystery School the first time and the level of attainment necessary to become a Mentor (Second Degree Initiation) is stretching into fifteen years. This amount of work could be met in three or four years, just as a person could complete a college degree from home (while employed) if s/he was able to make the commitment of time and effort to one's Pathworking.

Pathworking over the past year, for our Novices and Initiates has been slow, much to the discomfort of the Eldermentor who sometimes endures periods of fretting over the absence of any ready to become Mentors arising from our Novices and Initiates... There do remain a few hopefuls but their lives are so very busy at present.

Given the age of the current Eldermentor, this raises some significant questions. It becomes essential that my priorities become that student or those students who will be working, with love and passion, toward Lothloriën's future and who are able to keep their spiritual work as one of their top priorities. Now, the challenge will be to discover whether there are any potential students within the 'land of Lothloriën' who have that level of potential.

It is possible that in the next year or two I may need to stop accepting new students into The Mystery School until some of those currently working as Novices and/or First Degree Initiates complete more of their Pathworking. It is not a comfortable scenario but presently most people within The Rowan Tree Church assume that 'someone else' will take the role of overseeing The Mystery School or that I will be around forever.

The latter is not an appealing thought. My preference would be to complete this incarnation and to be able to return to a yet-functional Tradition of Lothloriën.

And that is where the scenario becomes in the hands of everyone but myself.

As I finish the work of the Annual Report, the above topic has been addressed within The Mystery School and, with the November issue of *The Rowan Tree News*, was first introduced to all of you, our Members. With this discussion put in place, along with serving notice that the vast leeway which has been extended students who were unable to maintain the minimum studies would also need to be changed, The Mystery School of Lothloriën has been a cauldron of bubbling activity.

The reworking of the Bardic path has been on a slow-track for several years, however, we have not had any applicants for that path of study in quite some time. There are potential changes taking place which will allow the reorganization of that Pathworking to begin moving forward with significant progress.

There is no real future for The Tradition of Lothloriën without The Mystery School. It is my primary responsibility and must be number one on my priority list given my limited time each week.

Humbly, Rev. Paul

beginning of year	\$ 243.08
tuition	1,319.75
Celestial Influences	61.00
Colouring Book of Numbers	10.00
The Ritual of Lothloriën	33.80
The Child of Light	5.00
Sabbat Journeys	15.00
Astral Pursuit	8.00
The Wheel of the Year	9.00
Hallows Ritual	6.00
Handfasting Ritual	5.00
A Wiccan Reader	30.40
The Yule Ritual	7.00
Lesser Banishing Pentagram Ritual	5.00
Ritual for Fall	10.00
prisoner donation	7.00
Lothloriën 101 tapes	16.00
total income	\$ 1,791.03

postage	\$ 289.46
Rowan Tree News help	6.00
promotional printing	35.81
web site expense	25.00
printing	68.22
misc. (to help other budgets)	123.41
ritual materials expense	264.12
general office expense	75.42
office and computer equipment	86.18
computer software contribution	101.57
telephone	221.38
electrical utility	27.67
paper recycling & waste pickup	20.40
water for gardens	60.00
garden and property maintenance	42.00
storage locker	22.00
portable toilet expense	43.36
total expense	\$ 1,512.00
balance	+ \$ 279.03

The Land Fund

The Land Fund is mandated by our Book of Legislation. We have been collecting monies for over fifteen years (perhaps

closer to twenty) toward the goal of someday acquiring an acreage of sacred land (quite likely untillable) within the reaches of the Upper Mothervalley. The Land Fund is supported by Member donation and by a percentage of monies allocated from Mystery School tuition, and from ritual and spiral-bound book sales. Any blessings for a return to economic health for North America would increase interest rates which have fallen to a historic lows, affecting the return on the money placed into Certificates of Deposit.

total money placed into CDs	\$ 7,551.67
CD interest to date	1,723.79
<u>total in Church checkbook end of year</u>	<u>869.13</u>
total land fund money	\$ 10,144.59
increase from last year	577.30

The Subscription Library

My life as the Rowan Tree's Librarian is, as one might expect, fairly quiet. The Subscription Library, with its many shelves of books, is typically under-utilized. In today's world many people prefer buying the books they want for themselves for most Wiccans seem to entertain having their own 'library.'

This past year we have added books. I also consigned several boxes of books to Stafford Creek Correctional Center on a variety of topics (and religions) which had no real value toward the goals of our Subscription Library. In addition to this, in order to maintain the library in the limited space of our cottage, the overflow of books is now being relocated to storage locker. The work of creating written descriptions came to a halt. We no longer have any volunteers for this although it is possible that this may change this year. The majority of those who use the Subscription Library are those in The Mystery School, those individuals working to expand their knowledge of Wicca and the mental tools they will need in their roles as those who hold the keys to Lothlorien's future.

Rev. Paul

beginning balance	\$ 76.31
calendars	45.90
portion of MS tuition	733.75
Member fees	3.00
<i>The Symbols and Magick of Tarot</i>	17.95
Tarot decks	47.00
<i>Painless Astrology</i>	26.50
donation from Alice Buehring	100.00
sales of <i>Holy Books</i>	20.00
sales of <i>A Wiccan Bardo</i>	173.16
prisoner donation	20.00
<u>book sales through Hermit's Grove</u>	<u>217.10</u>
total income	\$ 1,480.67

postage	\$ 158.44
misc.	79.84
office expense	34.54
book purchases	503.53
charitable donation	15.00
ritual expenses	109.60
computer costs	20.00
telephone	56.74
electricity	11.18
disposal service	32.75
water for RT property	80.00
public storage	20.00
portable toilet	35.00
<u>total expense</u>	<u>\$ 1,156.62</u>
balance	324.05

The Tape Library

I'm not certain that we *have* a tape library any more. In its most recent incarnation, the tape library lived in Moline, Illinois. With the deterioration of Tricia's health, all of the non-commercial tapes were sent here. Since that time I've taken the first steps to work through the tapes. The majority of them are not worth saving and are being recycled as Sunday Circle or New Moon tapes. Many of these tapes are old, some of them nearly 30 years old, and age will soon be claiming their fragile vinyl. I have begun listening and transcribing the tapes which have content needing to be saved for the future. When he is in the U.S., Mahzza H. has also helped with this transcription. There is also a set of tapes I recorded when I made my last presentation of the course known as "Astrological Alchemy." These tapes are being transcribed by Mick Kirkpatrick and I am deeply appreciative. It is my hope that this material will end up published as a book. It's on my list but, at the least, the text is saved for someone in Lothlorien's future to coauthor with me.

Rev. Paul

beginning balance	\$ 57.14
Member donations & purchase	214.01
sample package	8.00
<u>total income</u>	<u>\$ 279.42</u>

postage	\$ 66.35
printing	71.92
electricity	6.66
storage locker	49.00
<u>total expense</u>	<u>193.93</u>
balance	85.49

The Periodical Archives

For over a decade the periodicals were all housed with Tricia in Moline. This is where they ended up after they were relocated from my house in Minneapolis (the Blaisdell House). This body of literature represents 30 years of contemporary neopagan and Wiccan newsletters and magazines, a priceless and irreplaceable collection.

Those which had been accumulating here filled the first carton to be shipped to their new home in Cave Junction, Oregon where Lizard Frank (Frank Cordeiro) will become their new caretaker. Tricia and her mother were in Illinois in September and Arlene (Tricia's mother) made arrangements for the entire works to be shipped via UPS to Lizard. This is a large number of heavy cartons.

We can be very proud that we've had a couple of Members offer to guarantee the relocation cost. We are blessed!

Rev. Paul

opening balance	\$ 57.41
5% allocation of Member donations	214.01
sample packet allocation	8.00
<u>total income</u>	<u>\$279.42</u>

postage	\$ 66.35
electricity	6.66
Public Storage	49.00
printing	71.92
<u>expenses</u>	<u>\$ 193.93</u>
balance	85.49

The Subscription Library book inventory

Botany & Gardening	90 titles, 103 books [gained 7 new]
Children's Books	70 titles, 75 books [n/c]
Counselling and Wellness	73 titles, 77 books [n/c]
Death & Dying	23 titles, 25 books [n/c]
Fiction & Novels	344 titles, 424 books [gained 13]
Health & Wellness	121 titles, 131 books [gained 12]
Herbals	251 titles, 280 books [gained 12]

Miscellaneous 20 titles, 20 books [gained 1]
 Occult Sciences: Astrology 139 titles, 158 books [gained 6]
 Occult Sciences: Color 10 titles, 12 books [n/c]
 Occult Sciences: Divination & Misc. Arts 42 titles, 45 books [n/c]
 Occult Sciences: Dreams 14 titles, 15 books [n/c]
 Occult Sciences: Gems, Minerals and Metals 52 titles, 61 books [gained 4]
 Occult Sciences: I Ching 12 titles, 14 books [n/c]
 Occult Sciences: Miscellaneous Disciplines 67 titles, 72 books [n/c]
 Occult Sciences: Numerology 16 titles, 17 books [n/c]
 Occult Sciences: Occult and Spiritual Herbalism & Healing 50 titles, 62 books [gained 2]
 Occult Sciences: Spell Magick 36 titles, 40 books [n/c]
 Occult Sciences: Tarot 61 titles, 72 books [gained 2]
 Philosophy and World View 91 titles, 101 books [gained 3]
 Poetry & Literature 54 titles, 61 books [n/c]
 World Religions and Mythologies 346 titles, 410 books [gained 2]
 Sexuality, Sexual Issues and Sexual Magick 64 titles, 72 books [n/c]
 Spiritual Awakening 98 titles, 112 books [n/c]
 Unicorns 19 titles, 27 books [gained 1]
 Western Occult and Magical Traditions 211 titles, 260 books [gained 5]
 Wicca, Neopaganism and Witchcraft 295 titles, 400 books [gained 1]

net gain - 61 volumes

Prisoner Outreach Program

There is not much I would say about the Prisoner Outreach Program. We have had several participants move into the transitional member program. The Prisoner Outreach Program has, for the most part, been a very workable program.

It is heartening to see those who have changed their lives keep things together. The only long-term future concerns and goals would be that, at some point, the POP will need someone other than myself to manage the program. And a goal? That among the several offenders who will be creating their lives in this urban area, one or two might someday be of help to future men from Monroe and/or Stafford who have worked in the POP, helping them with housing and employment issues.

With Islam the fastest growing religion, along with (very) conservative Christian faiths, having a positive, Wiccan alternative in the prisons is very important.

We have, these past months, been operating "at capacity." This means we have 30 offenders in the program. Those who do not maintain their monthly progress letters and obtain (with barter) their monthly copies of *The Rowan Tree News* are finding that they've been bumped. Within another year or two additional standards will be applied and those who are not making steady (which does not imply fast nor slow) progress with their work through the written assignments, only 'treading water' (or paper, so to speak), may also find themselves bumped to make space for those with a more clear commitment to The Tradition of Lothlorien.

The Prisoner Outreach Program has proven its worthiness as one of the very important ministries of our beloved Rowan Tree. Rev. Paul V. Beyerl

The Hermit's Grove

Student enrollment in the Master Herbalist Program [MHP] is lower than last year, but only at the first quarter level which is the beginning level. Enrollment of new students typically has its ups and downs.

The major work over the past year was the largest portion

of marking the individual species (nearing 500) in the gardens with laminated signs on galvanized holders which provide botanical and other information.

The annual herbal retreat underwent a significant change. This past summer we held a 'symposium,' in which those in the MHP who had attained significant progress were invited to speak. This was a great success. Not only did this increase interaction and awareness of each other for the MHP students and graduates, but we brought in quite a few people from the public sector as well. Despite rain dampening the plans to hold the event in the camping square of the gardens, we managed to fit everyone snugly into our cottage. Amazing.

At the end of summer I removed the last grass, the 'lawn' we had in front of the house and just to the south. We now have solid garden from the driveway to the ravine at the far east end. This is definitely living Magick and embodies all of the principles of The Tradition of Lothlorien.

Work is being done toward the creation of by-laws and preparing (legally) The Hermit's Grove for its long-term future. Over recent months the discussion and meetings have been taking place during the continuing education classes with Rev. Paul, the founder and teacher, and Paula Beatty and Alice Buehring, the two certified Master Herbalists.

Lisa Cheadle is now in the third quarter of the MHP, no small accomplishment. Lisa and her partner will be Handfasted next year at their home in the Nisqually Valley.

Redge Peterson has been with the MHP since early this year. Redge spent much of this year coming to the Grove weekly, providing four or more hours a week in the gardens or at the computer. This has been wonderful! Unfortunately, Redge moved to Port Townsend in September.

But the good news is that Mary Gerner, one of our newer Rowan Tree Members, recently started the MHP and has begun driving up here weekly to help.

Remember, next summer the Annual Retreat will be held here at The Hermit's Grove. The future of this land, of the Church, and of its assets will be a major topic of discussion and your presence is genuinely requested!

Rev. Paul

Lay-Ministry and Minstrel Program

At this time there are four Lay-Ministers in the Rowan Tree. This year we were blessed to have a Member complete all the work and be successfully adjudicated as qualified for certification as Lay-Minister. Isaiah Dearborne is now a Lay-Minister of the Rowan Tree Church. He joins Jim Saigle in Canada, Lizard Frank Cordeiro in Oregon and me as representatives of the Church. Two more candidates are "in the process," having received suggestions for information and skills they need to know. We look forward to their completion and certification.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Lay-minister program, please write to gerry Beyerl at the Church's Kirkland office for more information. The program takes work to complete, but those who have completed it have a great knowledge of the Rowan Tree's beliefs and functions.

Blessings, gerry Beyerl, Lay-Ministry Coordinator

Jim Saigle, Lay Minister

My Lay-Ministry this year has seen a turning inward and a concentration on study and personal growth. Home, friends and family have been my main focus of attention. I look forward to increasing communication within the Rowan Tree Church in this coming year. Blessings.

The Galadhrim Society of Unicorns

felaróf

The Galadhrim Society of Unicorns is a herd of (currently) 13 Unicorns who desire to give additional service to the Rowan Tree beyond the participation as a Member sending in donations and forms. This is accomplished through extra activities and projects which are beneficial in some way to the Members of the Church. Each Galadhrim Member submits an idea of the activity they would like to do as a service to the Church. Each may change service offered at any time, if they feel that their current project is not effective in assisting or ministering to the Membership.

It has been my honor and duty to communicate with the other Unicorns. I let them know how we are all doing and to remind them of their commitment to support and communicate with each other, as well as offering service and encouragement to the Members of the Rowan Tree Church. Currently, the Unicorns are offering services of many types to the Church Members and each other; many of the services are available through the "classified ad" section of the RTNews. Please remember that any Church Member may join. If you are interested in becoming part of the Galadhrim, contact me at the Grove for more information.

The Child of Light healing rituals have been, are, and will continue to be a major focus of our group working. Many thanks to each Member of the Church that has made a request for energies. Your requests help us to stay focused on the importance of this working. We have been very pleased this year to hear from individuals that have requested this energy and have found it beneficial to their lives. We would always like to hear how our working of this ritual has brought relief or extra energy to those whose requests we have honored. This year we have also worked to send energy to several global groups, including the tsunami victims, the peoples of Egypt and London who have suffered from terrorism, the people who have suffered from Hurricane Katrina, the people of Israel and Lebanon caught in strife, and many others.

We had a very good time working the Child of Light ritual during the Annual Retreat at the Yellowstone this year; each morning we gathered with other Rowan Tree Members and worked two of the blessings for those who had requested. It was a wonderful way to start each day in such a magical location, within sight of Old Faithful.

Each Unicorn has been asked to submit a brief statement about her or his service for the past twelve months. I hope these responses from the Unicorns, telling what they have been doing in service for the Church during this past year, is helpful to you in understanding the types of things we are doing for Church Members. In Service.

Amalthea

What I do for the Galadhrim is act as sort of a herald for the COL and anything of importance we need to inform the herd about. While we may be getting a different computer sometime in the future, I would miss the physical act of writing to everyone.

Sordimon

Although I continue to monitor the RTC e-list and am a Board Advisor, I am taking on a new service in the form of housing the Church Periodical Library. As part of this service, I hope to put together a catalog of the periodicals so that anyone looking for information will have a guide as to what is

available. The catalog project has temporarily been put on hold because the unique nature of the periodicals makes it harder to list articles, and the program I used to list my personal library is inadequate. I am looking for a good database program that can handle more information and longer lists.

Valerian

I have been the Guardian of the Periodical Library this past year.

Abakar

My service for the last year has been to make things for sale to benefit the Church. I have made items such as pentagram earrings and Unicorn necklaces. I plan to make more things for sale, with the profits going to the Church. My most current project is beaded feathers. I also hope to make more necklaces with Unicorn pendants. At present I am working on some quilts that have things like pentagrams and moons on them. I hope to have several done before Yule.

I continue to do the COL ritual every first quarter of the Moon, as close to the time noted as I can. I also send healing energy to people on the COL list and others I care for on other occasions. At this time, I have also become an observer on the Board of Directors. I hope to be of service in any way I can. Peace to all.

Keerdan

My Galadhrim service this past tour around the Sun has been through the Child of Light Ritual in which we make energy available to those who wish healing or support during difficult times. I do feel that the ritual work has been valuable to those sharing the energies and also to those of us helping to channel the Universal energy currents. In Service.

Daymoon

Howdy Dowdy and Uni-blessidings! Daymoon here with a report on my romplings in the Rowan Tree. (Have you ever seen a unicorn romp in a tree? Takes talent - to do and to see!) We are supposed to... no, not 'supposed to'... we GET to do a service in the Galadhrim. One of our own choosing. I'm working on a project to write "letters-as-gifts" to each Member of the Rowan Tree. I think I've made it about halfway through our numbers. If you haven't received one yet, it will be coming soon to a post box near you. I just do what I enjoy and it counts for service. Thanks to all who read my little notes. It is a service you do for me in giving me a positive way to use my energy. Long live Lothlorien.

Amicitia

I am very new to the herd, having just joined the herd after our return from Yellowstone. I have been working busily on my service to the Church, which is a paper making fundraiser. I have just gotten the sheets of Yellowstone paper done, and will be sending them out by the end of the month. I have some sample cards done, and will send those out at the end of the month as well. I have been busily working on some paper that I will be able to sell out of a local gift shop beginning at the end of October. I have also started making templates that I can use to make gift tags and envelopes with flower seeds in them, to sell to the proprietor of the flower shop. I hope to have all of these things in effect by the end of October.

Hereshka

Greetings dear Lothlorien herd, and a tip of the horn to you

all. Well, it has been awhile. My human and I had taken a long leave of absence from the activities of the Church, but this past spring we have rejoined the herd, and gladly. Throughout the late spring and summer of this year we have been creating magickal wands at the request of church members, fresh from the trees growing here on the land we live upon. It has been a wonderful experience, learning more and more about the trees and how to coax their magick from them each time. Drawing up an astrological chart with each wand has provided further interesting information regarding the unique nature of each individually crafted magickal tool. Yet wand making has not been our only service. Tape transcription has also been a revealing activity, learning much about the history of the church and ritual information while preserving thus far documents only found on audio-cassette.

Finally, we have had the fortune to return to the Amazon jungle once again this year, and we resided in South America for 3 months. While in the jungles of Bolivia we placed a glass unicorn statue behind a waterfall far back in the forest; the twin of a statue which currently resides at The Rowan Tree Church. From this link we hope to help establish a bridge between the energies and life force of the Amazon jungle and the gardens of Lothloriën. And not only this, but the desire was to establish contact and continued communication with a herd of unicorns within the jungle itself. This contact has been successfully made, and a small but interested and very beautiful jungle herd is now slowly crossing the astral plane to play in the pulse of the gardens of Lothloriën, with invitation to our unicorns here in North America to travel the ethereal paths and dance in the jungles of the Amazon. With Much Love to You All.

Carling

For the past year, my service to the Rowan Tree has primarily consisted of my participation on the Board of Directors and role as Church Treasurer. Being a member of the Board of Directors involves responding to monthly agendas which address various issues which arise regarding the administration of Rowan Tree business. Some of those issues regard Church finances, and the Treasurer's has an increased role in helping to resolve these issues. Additionally, the Treasurer helps to perform the quarterly audit of Church finances, an important function for our tax exempt status.

Additionally, the Galadhrim is a service organization for the Rowan Tree, and we provide service by participating in the Child of Light ritual on a monthly basis, and by keeping in contact and offering support to other Galadhrim members. Although this has been an extremely busy year for me personally, the Rowan Tree continues to be a source of support to me, and I hope that my participation in the Galadhrim has been a source of support to other Church members. Blessed be.

Ritual Schedule - 2006-2007

Tuesday, October 31st - Hallows Eve
7:00 - The Hallows Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove

Saturday, November 4th - Full Lovage Moon Eve in Taurus - 7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove - [Actual time: 5 Nov. 06 - 4:58 am Kirkland Standard Time* (KST)]

Monday, November 20th
New Basil Moon in Scorpio
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School
[Actual time: 2:18 pm KST]
Sunday, December 3rd

Full Elfwort Moon Eve in Gemini
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove
[Actual time: 4 Dec. 06 - 4:24 pm KST]

Wednesday, December 20th - Yule Eve
7:00 pm - The Yule Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove
[Winter begins: 21 Dec. 06 - 4:25 pm KST]

Thursday, December 21st
New Sage Moon in Sagittarius
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School
[Observed a day late to accommodate the Yule Eve Sabbat.]
[Actual time: 20 Dec. 06 - 6:00 am KST]

Tuesday, January 2nd
Full Hyssop Moon Eve in Cancer
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove
[Actual time: 3 Jan. 07 - 5:57 am KST]

Friday, January 19th
New Comfrey Moon in Capricorn
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School
[Actual time: 18 Jan. 07 - 8:00 pm KST]

Thursday, February 1st - Candlemas Eve & the Full Angelica Moon in Leo
7:00 pm - The Candlemas Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove
[Actual Full Moon time: 9:47 pm KST]

Saturday, February 17th
New Star Anise Moon in Aquarius
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School
[Actual time: 8:14 am KST]

Friday, March 2nd
Full Lavender Moon Eve in Virgo
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove
[Actual time: 3 Mar. 07 - 3:17 pm KST]

Sunday, March 18th
New Willow Moon in Pisces
6:30 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School
[Actual New Moon time: 6:42 pm KST]

Monday, March 19th - Eostara Eve
7:00 pm - Eostara Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove
[Spring begins: 20 Mar. 07 - 4:08 pm KST]

Sunday, April 1st
Full Verbena Moon Eve in Libra
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove
[Actual Full Moon time: 2 Apr. 07 - 10:15 am KDT - Kirkland Daylight Savings Time]

Tuesday, April 17th
New Blessed Thistle Moon in Aries
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School
[Actual time: 4:35 am KDT]

Monday, April 30th - Beltane Eve
7:00 pm - The Beltane Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove

Tuesday, May 1st
Full Basil Moon Eve in Scorpio
7:00 pm - The Tarot Ritual - Solitary Working
[Actual time: 2 May 07 - 3:08 am KDT]

Wednesday, May 16th
New Lovage Moon in Taurus
7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School
[Actual time: 12:27 pm KDT]

Sunday, May 20th - 8th Annual Garden Blessing Ritual - 2:00 pm at The Hermit's Grove

Thursday, May 31st

Full Sage Moon in Sagittarius

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove

[Actual time: 6:04 pm KDT]

We will be starting just after the actual time of the Full Moon.

Depending upon the RSVP list we may begin earlier.

Friday, June 15th

New Elfwort Moon in Gemini

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School

[Actual New moon: 14 June 07 - 8:14 pm KDT]

Wednesday, June 20th

Midsummer Eve

7:00 pm - Midsummer's Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove

[Summer begins: 21 June 07 - 11:07 am KDT]

Friday, June 29th

Full Comfrey Moon Eve in Capricorn

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove

[Actual Full Moon: 30 June 07 - 6:50 am KDT]

Saturday, July 14th

New Hyssop Moon in Cancer

6:30 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School

[Actual time: 5:05 am KDT]

Thursday, July 26th

XXIII Annual Retreat Begins

Friday, July 27th

XXIII Annual Retreat

Saturday, July 28th

XXIII Annual Retreat

Sunday, July 29th

XXIII Annual Retreat Concludes

Full Star Anise Moon in Aquarius

2:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove

[Actual time: 5:47 pm KDT]

Tuesday, July 31st

Lammas Eve

7:00 pm - The Lammas Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove

Sunday, August 12th

New Angelica Moon in Leo

6:30 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School

[Actual New Moon time: 4:01 pm KDT]

Monday, August 27th

Full Willow Moon Eve in Pisces

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove

[Actual Full Moon: 28 Aug. 07 - 3:35 am KDT]

Tuesday, September 11th

New Lavender Moon in Virgo

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School

[Actual time - 5:45 am KDT]

Friday, September 22nd

Autumn Eve

7:00 pm - The Autumn Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove
Locally, we will be working our Sabbat a day early. Rev. Paul and Gerry will be down in the Nisqually Valley conducting a Handfasting for Lisa Cheadle and Tim Kramer. Lisa is one of the advanced students in the Master Herbalist Program, a student of shamanism, and was a Rowan Tree Member for a couple of years.

[Autumn begins: 23 Sep 07 - 2:52 am KDT]

Sunday, September 23rd

Ritual for Fall

2:00 pm - The Ritual for Fall of The Rowan Tree Church at The Hermit's Grove

Tuesday, September 25th

Full Blessed Thistle Moon Eve in Aries

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove

[Actual time - 26 Sep. 07 - 12:44 pm KDT]

Thursday, October 11th

New Verbena Moon in Libra

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School

[Actual time 10 Oct. 07 - 10:00 pm KDT]

Thursday, October 25th

Full Lovage Moon in Taurus

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove

[Actual time - 9:51 pm KDT]

Wednesday, October 31st - Hallows Eve

7:00 pm - The Hallows Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove

Friday, November 9th - New Basil Moon in Scorpio

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School

[Actual time 3:03 pm KST]

Friday, November 23rd - Full Elfwort Moon in Gemini

7:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove

[Actual Full Moon: 24 Nov. 07 - 6:29 am KST]

Sunday, December 9th

New Sage Moon in Sagittarius

6:30 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën for The Mystery School

[Actual New Moon - 9:40 am KST]

Friday, December 21st - Yule Eve

7:00 pm - The Yule Eve Journey at The Hermit's Grove

[Winter begins: 21 Dec. 07 - 10:09 pm]

Sunday, December 23rd

Full Hyssop Moon in Cancer

4:00 pm - The Ritual of Lothloriën at The Hermit's Grove

[Actual Full Moon - 5:16 pm KST.]

We will be in Circle at the exact time of the Full Moon.

* All times are based upon astrological calculations for The Hermit's Grove at 47° N 41' and 122° W 12' - Kirkland Standard Time is adjusted for 2° 12' west of Pacific Time. KDT indicates Pacific Daylight Time with the same adjustment for The Hermit's Grove.] Actual starting times for rituals may be adjusted. If attending in person, contact Rev. Paul at The Hermit's Grove to be certain.



From the original edition of *The Holy Books of the Devas*